

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, 45,115 Arizona residents died. The table below lists the top 10 causes of death of Arizona residents in 2005.¹

“Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the top causes of disability and death in the United States. Each year, chronic diseases claim the lives of more than 1.7 million Americans. These diseases are responsible for 7 of every 10 deaths in the United States. Chronic diseases cause major limitations in daily living for more than 1 of every 10 Americans, or 25 million people. These diseases account for more than 70 percent of the \$1 trillion spent on health care each year in the United States.”²

Since 1982, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has implemented the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS is an on-going data collection system for gathering information on adult health-related behaviors of non-institutionalized residents 18 years of age and older. The purpose of the BRFSS is to provide data that can be used to plan, implement, and monitor health promotion and disease prevention efforts in Arizona.

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, ARIZONA 2005

RANK	CAUSE OF DEATH	NUMBER OF DEATHS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS	AGE ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATE	AGE ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATE
				Total	Male/Female
1	Heart Disease	10,779	23.9	245.7	298.2/203.8
2	Malignant Neoplasms - Cancer	9,673	21.4	161.8	197.1/136.1
3	Unintentional Injury	3,006	6.7	51.1	68.7/34.4
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	2,778	6.2	46.8	51.3/43.5
5	Cerebrovascular Disease	2,325	5.2	40.6	40.0/40.5
6	Alzheimer's Disease	1,816	4.0	32.7	27.7/35.7
7	Influenza and Pneumonia	1,280	2.8	22.3	26.6/19.2
8	Diabetes Mellitus	1,196	2.7	20.1	24.7/16.7
9	Intentional Self-harm - Suicide	915	2.0	15.4	24.9/6.5
10	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	749	1.7	12.7	17.7/8.1

Source: Arizona health status and vital statistics, 2005. * All death rates are age-adjusted to the estimated 2000 U.S. population.

References

1. Mrela, CK, ARIZONA HEALTH STATUS AND VITAL STATISTICS, 2005. Bureau of Public Health Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services.
2. CDC. The Burden of Chronic Diseases and Their Risk Factors: National and State Perspectives, February 2004.